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RISCA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year ending 31st December, 1939.

To the Chairman and Members of the Risca Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour of presenting my Annual Report as Medical Officer of Health for your District. This Report is compiled according to instructions contained in Circular 1961 (Wales).

SECTION A. - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Statistics not yet available from the Registrar General.

NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES - The Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1939 is 3,695.

RATEABLE VALUE - £52,602.

SUM REPRESENTED BY ONE PENNY RATE - £180 (Estimated).

EXTENT OF UNEMPLOYMENT - The state of unemployment during the year was as follows:-

	Men	Women	Boys	Girls	Total
No.unemployed in January, 1939	895	99	42	63	1,099
No.unemployed in December, 1939	372	114	35	77	598
Average No. of unemployed per year for 1938	646	102	44	79	871

There were no special causes of sickness or infirmity especially noteworthy during the year, or any conditions of accommodation or environment which would be detrimental to health.

SECTION B - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

1.- PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY.

Part-time Medical Officer of Health and a whole-time Sanitary Inspector who acts as Foods Inspector.

2. - There are no changes in the services provided under the following heads:-

(a) Laboratory Facilities.

(b) Ambulance Facilities.
The St. John Ambulance is available for accidents and sickness to which a number of the population contribute a small weekly fee.
There are also two private ambulances in the district for hire. Contracts are made with these by several of the works in the District.

(c) Nursing in the Home.
There is a very efficient voluntary Nursing Association in the area which employs three district nurses.

(d) Clinics and Treatment Centres.
These are available and controlled by the Monmouthshire County Council.

(e) Hospitals, Public and Voluntary.
The Hospitals used are the Royal Gwent Hospital, Newport; Cardiff Royal Infirmary and the Hospitals controlled by the Monmouthshire County Council Public Assistance Committee.

SECTION C. - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. WATER.
During the year 6 samples of water were taken from various sources and submitted for analysis to the County Analyst.

Suitable action was taken on receipt of the Analyst's Reports.

2. DRAINS AND SEWERAGE.
There were no important extensions to the sewerage and drainage systems of the District during the year. For details see the Sanitary Inspector's Rep ort.

3. RIVERS AND STREAMS.
No action was taken to check the pollution of rivers and streams in the area during the year.

4. CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.
Particulars will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

5. PUBLIC CLEANSING.
There were no extensions or improvements during the year in the arrangements for public cleansing.

6. SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.
A classified statement of the premises visited, the defects and nuisances discovered and the action and result of action taken with regard to these will be found in the Sanitary Inspector's Report.

7. SHOPS.
The shops in the area are periodically visited by your Sanitary Inspector, and appropriate action taken to deal with any nuisances or defects discovered.

8. SMOKE ABATEMENT.
No action was taken in reference to this paragraph.

9. SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.
There is one public open-air Swimming Pool owned by the Coundil. This pool is used to a great extent and is conducted in a very satisfactory manner.

10. CAMPING SITES.
There are no camping sites in this area.

11. ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.
Five houses, 2 Council and 3 Private were found to be infested with bugs. In each case complete eradication was effected. All cracks, crevices, woodwork etc. are treated with the blow-lamp and then sprayed with Zaldecide.

12. SCHOOLS.
The schools in the district were visited during the year and when defects were found they were reported to the Education Authority.

SECTION D.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) 312

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 896

(2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925. 9

(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 40

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation. 9

(4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation. 5

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers 120

3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936:

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs 30

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices 30

(a) By owners 30

(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners. -

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied. 116

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices -

(a) By owners 90

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners 1

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which demolition orders were made 55

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders 24

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 -

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 4

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit -

4. HOUSING ACT, 1936, OVERCROWDING.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 20

(2) Number of families dwelling therein 23

(3) Number of persons dwelling therein 161

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1

(c) (1) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year. 4

(2) Number of persons concerned in such cases 21

(d) Particulars of any houses becoming overcrowded after first relief. -

(e) Plans for the erection of 74 houses are being considered for proceeding at earliest possible date under Slum Clearance and Overcrowding

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY - Farms and Dairies have been regularly inspected and samples of milk taken and examined for bacterial content and for tubercle bacili, under the various Milk and Dairies Orders. For details see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

I consider the Milk Supply of your area very satisfactory.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS - For action taken with regard to Meat and Other Foods, Slaughter Houses, etc., see Sanitary Inspector's Report.

(c) ADULTERATION - No special action was taken under these Acts and Regulations.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD - Ample use is made of the facilities provided by the County Laboratory.

(e)) NUTRITION - No action has been taken under this Section.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, and CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All cases of notifiable infectious diseases are visited by your Sanitary Inspector. If necessary, arrangements are made for the removal of patients to an Isolation Hospital.

There were only 28 cases of Scarlet Fever as compared with 150 during the previous year.

18 cases of Cerebro Spinal Meningitis were notified during the year.

DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

No further work was done under this heading during the year. 11 cases were notified.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Diseases.	Cases Notified. Age Groups.													Deaths.
	Under Age.	1 - 2	2 - 3	3 - 4	4 - 5	5 - 10	10 - 15	15 - 20	20 - 35	35 - 45	45 - 65	65 and over.	Total all ages.	
Enteric Fever.														NO DETAILS AVAILABLE.
Puoperal Pyroxia.									3				3	
Diphtheria.			2	1		4	3	1					11	
Scarlet Fever.		1	1	3	3	11	4	5					28	
Pneumonia.				3	1	2	1	1	2	1	3		14	
Erysipelas.									1		2		3	
C. S. M.		2	1			8	1	2	2	1	1		18	
Whooping Cough.		2	1	1	1								5	
Measles.			1										1	
Totals.		5	6	8	5	25	9	9	8	2	6		83	

TUBERCULOSIS.

	New Cases.				Deaths.			
Age. Period.	Pulmonary. M.	Pulmonary. F.	Non-Pulmonary. M.	Non-Pulmonary. F.	Pulmonary. M.	Pulmonary. F.	Non-Pulmonary. M.	Non-Pulmonary. F.
0 - 1								
1 - 5				3				2
5 - 10			1	1				
10- 25	3	3	1	1	2	2	2	1
25- 35	1	2			1	1		
35- 45		1				2		
45- 55		1				1		
55- 65	1					1		
65 and over.								
TOTALS.	5	7	2	5	3	7	2	3

INSPECTION OF FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Premises.	Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
Factories with Mechanical power	16	1	-
Factories without mechanical power	-	-	-
Other premises	-	-	-
	16	1	-

DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

	Defects found	Defects remedied	Refer to H.M.S. Insp.	Prosecutions
Want of Cleanliness	1	1	-	-
Overcrowding	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature	-	-	-	-
Inadequate Ventilation	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors	-	-	-	-
Sanitary conveniences				
Insufficient	1	1	-	-
Unsuitable or defective	-	-	-	-
Not separate for sexes	-	-	-	-
other offences				
	2	2	-	-

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

NOEL N.WADE, M.D.,

Medical Officer of Health.

RISCA URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT.
For the Year Ending December, 1939.

To The Chairman and Members of the Risca Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting to you my first Annual Report of the work accomplished by the Public Health Department for the year ended 31st December, 1939.

Statement of Sanitary and Housing Work completed during the year.

EXTERIOR.

Roofs repaired and made weatherproof	24
Rainwater pipes or eavesgutters repaired or renewed	3
House walls rendered to prevent dampness	3
Yards repaved	5
Sculleries erected	3
Coal retainers built	4

INTERIOR.

Windows renewed or repaired	12
Sashcords provided	14
Floors renewed or repaired	9
Copper boilers repaired	4
Ceilings repaired or renewed	14
Walls replastered	21
New fireranges provided	2

DRAINAGE.

Main and Branch drains constructed	31
Choked drains cleansed	76
New Gullies provided and fixed	10
New drain inspection chambers built	10
Inspection chambers repaired and provided with covers	17
Washup basins provided	9
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	2
Drain ventilating pipes repaired or renewed	26

WATERCLOSETS.

New waterclosets provided	3
New pedestal pans provided	15
Flushing cisterns provided	96
Dirty closet pans cleansed	3
Insanitary closets put out of use	1

MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS AND NUISANCES ABATED, ETC.

Overcrowding abated	4
Houses provided with water supply	7
Slaughterhouses limewashed	9
Houses sprayed for vermin	6
Houses fumigated or sprayed after infectious disease	69

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

The Slaughter-houses and Butchers' shops of the District were visited and the Meat inspected at every available opportunity.

Generally speaking I found that the meat sold in the District was of a very good quality.

PARTICULARS OF CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle, excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	395	200	217	5786	1178
Number inspected	335	175	175	5128	1065
All diseases except Tuberculosis Whole carcases condemned	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	3	-	24	7
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B.	-	1.7	-	.46	.65
Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned	1	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	4	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	.29	2.28	-	-	-

The following are the particulars of the meat and food surrendered and destroyed during the year.

Beef (English)	472 lbs.
Beef (Imported)	390 lbs.
Pork (Imported)	18 lbs.
Offal	199½ lbs.
Butter	18½ lbs.

MILK SUPPLY.

The cowsheds, dairies and milkshops in your district were periodically visited throughout the year in order to ensure that the milk produced and retailed in the area was clean and free from contamination.

There are 32 Milk Traders operating in the district, 4 of them bringing milk in from other areas.

Producer-Retailers	13
Retailers	16
Producers	3

41 samples of milk were taken and submitted for bacteriological analysis to the County Analyst. Of these 35 were quite satisfactory. The remaining 6 failed to pass the test.

The 3 grades of milk under the Milk Special Designation Order are Pasteurised, Certified and Tuberculin Tested.

One firm retails Pasteurised milk and one Producer-Retailer sells Certified milk.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 9 Private Slaughterhouses situated in the district. During the year a detailed inspection of each was made and a Report submitted to you.

In that Report I recommended the construction of a Public Abattoir and I would like to take this opportunity of reminding you of the necessity of such a place when the time is more opportune.

All the Slaughterhouses were limewashed during the year and improvements carried out in one.

RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT.

A great deal of trouble was experienced with rats at the Danygraig Refuse Tip.. The Tip was baited systematically on several occasions and a great improvement effected. Several complaints were received from householders. These were dealt with and no further complaints were received.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All notified cases of infectious disease were promptly visited.

Advice is given to the householder together with a warning notice which is placed in the window.

All efforts are made to trace any possible sources of infections.

Each house is thoroughly fumigated or sprayed when the attending Doctor certifies the patient to be free from infection.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

During the year the above Act came into force.

It requires that the following premises be registered by you as a Local Authority

1. Premises used for:-

   (a) The sale, of the manufacture for the purpose of the sale, of ice-cream, or the storage of ice-cream intended for sale, or

   (b) The preparation or manufacture of sausages, potted, pressed, pickled or preserved food intended for sale.

Each premises was inspected on receipt of an application form and the result of my inspection reported to you.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

GLYN H. JENKINS.
Sanitary Inspector and Inspector
of Meat and Other Foods.